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SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE
OF N.J.'s PUERTO RICANS

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Demographic Characteristics of Puerto Ricans in New Jersey

The 1970 Census lists the following data about the Puerto Rican community in New Jersey:

- Puerto Rican families are larger, younger, are overwhelming renters of dwelling space, and live in overcrowded circumstances to a greater extent than is true of any other statistical group in New Jersey;

- median family income for Puerto Ricans is 44% less than the family income of Anglo-whites and 17% less than that of black people;

- per capita income for Puerto Ricans is 57% less than that of whites and 18% less than that of blacks;

- one out of every seven Puerto Rican families lives in extreme poverty; one out of every four families lives in poverty; one out of every three families is either impoverished or borderline poor; and seven out of every ten families are working poor;

- one out of every four Puerto Rican families is eligible for public assistance; whereas one out of every five families is receiving public assistance;

- 3.2% of employed Puerto Ricans are self-employed; whereas 4.2% of blacks and 10.8% of whites are self-employed;

- 8.1% of Puerto Ricans receive "other income" (interest, dividends, pensions, etc.); whereas 12.2% of blacks and 42.3% of whites are similarly situated;

- 68% of employed Puerto Ricans work in low income-unskilled jobs;

- 24% of Puerto Rican mothers of pre-school children are working to supplement husband's income;

- 28% of Puerto Rican males 16 to 21 years old and out of school are unemployed;

- Puerto Ricans are dropping out of school at a rate four times that of whites and twice that of blacks;

- occupationally Puerto Ricans will require 120 years at the present growth rate (1.7% per decade) to achieve the present professional-managerial status realized by whites but only if the latter's occupational mobility stops in its tracks.

TABLE 1.

Family Characteristics by Ethnicity (N.J.)

	<u>PUERTO RICANS</u>	<u>BLACKS</u>	<u>WHITES</u>
<u>Mean size</u>	4.3	4.0	3.5
<u>% families with children under 6 years</u>	50.3	34.7	24.3
<u>% female headed</u>	19.1	29.6	9.1
<u>% in owner occupied housing unit</u>	13.2	26.1	61.0
<u>% live in overcrowded circumstances (1.01 or more persons per room)</u>	28.0	20.0	16.0
<u>% lacking some or all plumbing facilities</u>	6.8	4.6	1.8

TABLE 2.

Economic Characteristics by Ethnicity (N.J.)

	<u>PUERTO RICANS</u>	<u>BLACKS</u>	<u>WHITES</u>
<u>Median family income</u>	\$6,459	\$7,644	\$11,771
<u>Per capita income</u>	\$1,807	\$2,243	\$3,869
<u>% family income less than poverty level</u>	24.3	18.9	4.8
<u>% families receiving public assistance</u>	20.0	18.3	3.1
<u>% family income less than 75 per cent of poverty level</u>	13.7	11.6	3.1
<u>% family income less than 125 per cent of poverty level</u>	34.6	26.6	7.1

TABLE 3.

Educational Characteristics by Ethnicity (N.J.)

	<u>PUERTO RICANS</u>	<u>BLACKS</u>	<u>WHITES</u>
<u>Median school years completed</u>	8.3	10.5	12.1
<u>% males 16-21 years school dropouts</u>	46.2	25.7	11.6
<u>% persons 18-24 years, not completed High School</u>	70.7	44.0	24.0
<u>% persons 25 years +,</u>			
less than 5 years education	23.4	8.9	4.3
less than 1 year High School	59.7	36.0	27.2
less than 4 years High School	79.6	63.8	45.9
college graduates	2.0	4.1	12.5

TABLE 4.

Occupation of Employed Persons by Ethnicity (N.J.)

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>% PUERTO RICANS</u>	<u>% BLACKS</u>	<u>% WHITES</u>
	<u>'60 - '70</u>	<u>'70</u>	<u>'70</u>
1. Prof., tech., & kindred workers	2.7 - 4.2	8.3	16.7
2. Managers, adm. except farm	2.1 - 2.3	2.2	9.4
3. Sales and Clerical	7.7 - 13.2	18.3	28.9
4. Craftsmen	8.2 - 11.3	9.3	14.2
5. Operatives, laborers	62.1 - 55.2	38.9	20.6
6. Service Workers	10.1 - 11.1	22.1	9.5
7. Farmers and Agricultural workers	5.7 - 1.7	.9	.6*
<u>or socio-economically:</u>			
Middle Class: (#1 & 2)	4.8 - 6.5	10.5	26.7*
Strivers: (#3 & 4)	15.9 - 24.5	27.6	43.1
Working Poor: (#5, 6, & 7)	77.9 - 68.0	61.9	30.1

* the .6% in category #7 for whites is included among the middle class as they are overwhelming farmers whereas for Puerto Ricans and Blacks they are overwhelming agricultural workers. It must be pointed out that category #7 does not include migrant farmworkers, day haul farmworkers who reside outside of New Jersey, and Puerto Rican contract workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
 P C (1) - C 32 New Jersey ('72)
 P C (2) - 1 D ('63)